

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA--ITEM 69--DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT  
RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: GHANA CONFERENCE

1. AT A WEO MEETING DEC 15 THE QUESTION OF WEO MEMBER-  
SHIP ON THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 1978 ACCRA  
CONFERENCE WAS AGAIN DISCUSSED. THE WEOS HAD PREVIOUSLY  
INFORMED ECOSOC PRESIDENT AKE THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE IN  
A POSITION TO NOMINATE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE UNTIL  
AFTER THE RESOLUTIONS ON THE DECADE HAD BEEN ADOPTED IN  
PLENARY. THE QUESTION OF WEO MEMBERSHIP ON THE COM-  
MITTEE IS A SOMEWHAT DELICATE QUESTION AS THE EC-9 AND  
SOME OTHER WEOS HAVE SO FAR NOT MADE ANY COMMITMENTS  
AS TO WHETHER THEY WILL ATTEND THE GHANA CONFERENCE.  
THEY ARE CONCERNED LEST THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE PREP-  
COM WOULD INDICATE A COMMITMENT TO ATTEND THE CONFER-  
ENCE WHICH THEY ARE NOT YET PREPARED TO MAKE. ON THE  
OTHER HAND, THE EC-9 DO NOT WISH TO SEE ALL OF THE  
WESTERN SEATS OCCUPIED BY STATES SUCH AS MALTA, PORTUGAL,  
OR TURKEY WHO VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION  
AND WHO WOULD NOT BE THE BEST REPRESENTATIVES OF  
WESTERN VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT.

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2. FRANCE AND THE UK INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD BE IN-  
TERESTED IN SERVING ON THE PREPCOM FOR WHICH THE WESTERN  
GROUP HAS BEEN ALLOTTED THREE SEATS. AMB JANKOWITSCH  
(AUSTRIA) NOTED THAT AUSTRIA THIS YEAR VOTED IN FAVOR  
OF THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTION AND WAS CONSIDERING BE-

COMING A CANDIDATE FOR A WEO SEAT BUT WAS NOT YET PRESENTING ITS FORMAL CANDIDATURE. PORTUGAL ALSO INDICATED AN INTEREST IN SERVING ON THE COMMITTEE BUT STATED, AS DID AUSTRIA, THAT IT WAS NOT INTERESTED AS YET IN PRESENTING ITS FORMAL CANDIDACY. AUSTRALIA NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE PREPCOM BECAUSE IT IS NOT A MEMBER OF ECOSOC AND MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMITE IS LIMITED TO COUNTRIES THAT WILL BE MEMBERS OF ECOSOC IN 1978. THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE STATED THAT HE HAS CONSULTED WITH SEVERAL AFRICAN DELEGATES WHO BELIEVE THAT 1) THE CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE CHANGED TO EXCLUDE THE REQUIREMENT FOR ECOSOC MEMBERSHIP, AND 2) THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE EXPANDED FROM 16 TO A LARGER NUMBER.

3. THE QUESTION OF EXPANDING THE COMMITTEE AND REVISING THE CRITERIA COULD POSSIBLY BE DISCUSSED AT THE ECOSOC ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS BEGINNING JAN 10. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT COMMENTS ON THIS QUESTION.  
SCRANTON

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